

# GATES COUNTY INDEX

The Only Newspaper Published in and for Gates County

Volume 13, No. 22

Gatesville, N. C., Wednesday, January 31, 1945

(One Week Nearer Victory)

12 Pages This Week



**ALL-SPORTS WAR-WORKING GIRLS.**—These workers at an Inglewood, California, aviation plant, believe that sports during off-duty hours make for better efficiency on the production line. Dorothy Poynton Teuber, famed athlete of Olympic games aquatic renown, supervises the sporting activities.

## OPA Needs Help; Distributed More Than 33,000 Books in Three Years; Over 31,000 Gas Rations Issued

"We are here to serve, not to exercise power, and the longer we serve the greater the respect we have for the people we serve," F. H. Rountree, chairman of the Gates County War Price and Rationing Board, said today.

Commenting on the fact that this month marks the third anniversary of the establishment of the national OPA War Price and Rationing program, Mr. Rountree said that "local boards have two purposes: to help hold the price line and to help distribute the available supply of war-rare goods fairly among all 'zens.'"

Locally, our board has maintained a tremendous volume of activity in both the price and rationing fields," he said. Mr. Rountree pointed to the following accomplishments during the past three years.

1. Over 33,000 ration books distributed.

See NEEDS HELP, Page 3

## Pfc. Josh Eure Is Honored

Twenty-Ninth Infantry Division.—Pfc. Josh L. Eure, brother of Thurman Eure and Miss Julia Eure, both of Eure, and son of late Mr. and Mrs. Riddick Eure, has received a certificate personally signed by his commanding general honoring him for fighting with the Twenty-Ninth Infantry Division from D-Day to St. Lo.

The honor is a personal salute from Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt to the officers and men who battered their way through "looded areas and the Normandy gerows and stormed the key of St. Lo in a campaign where the taking of every 500 yards was a major battle.

## Pre-natal Clinic To Be Thursday at 2

The regular monthly pre-natal and well baby clinic will be held in Gatesville, at the Gatesville Health Department on Thursday, February 1, at 2 p. m.



**WAR PRISONER.** Mrs. Kate Blanchard Savage of Whaleyville, Va., was advised by the War Department Monday that her son, Lieut. Willard J. Blanchard of Sunbury, reported missing in action over Europe since December 26, is a prisoner of war of the German government. Lieut. Blanchard is 25, is married, and Mrs. Blanchard lives in Salemburg. The message, lifting the "missing" status, came through the International Red Cross. Lieut. Blanchard was navigator on an Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress and had been awarded the Air Medal.

## Services Held For Davenport Infant

Funeral services for James Robert Davenport, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Davenport of Elizabeth City, were held in the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. White, of Sunbury, on Sunday afternoon, January 21.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. T. Sloan Guy. Hymns sung were "Safe In The Arms of Jesus" and "My Faith Looks Up To Thee."

Besides his parents, the infant is survived by one sister, Carolyn Faye Davenport, his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. White of Sunbury; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davenport of Edenton.

## For Action Against Sub, Rountree Wins Star Medal

Lieut. Frederick Manning Rountree of Sunbury, USNR, has been awarded the Silver Star Medal "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as pilot of a fighter plane during action against an enemy submarine in the Atlantic," Fifth Naval District headquarters in Norfolk was advised today.

His wife, Mrs. Frances Rountree, lives in Norfolk. He was a lieutenant (junior grade) when he distinguished himself.

Accompanying his medal is a citation which says:

"Proceeding with another fighter and a bombing plane to the scene of a previous attack when the surfaced vessel was sighted, he skilfully coordinated action to deliver a bold strafing attack on the undersea craft in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire.

"Continuing his attack with devastating force, he effectively raked the conning tower and gun positions, silencing enemy fire and enabling the bomber to deliver an accurate and timely strike on the rapidly submerging hostile vessel which resulted in her probable destruction.

"His splendid airmanship, courageous determination and gallant devotion to duty in the face of grave perils were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

## Former Resident Of Corapeake Buried Friday

Suffolk, Jan. 24.—Wallace B. Benton, 69, formerly of Corapeake, died Wednesday at 12:30 p. m. at his home on Morgan street after a long illness.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Mamie B. Benton; four daughters, Mrs. Shirley Daughtrey, Mrs. Jesse Byrd, Mrs. Tom Daughtrey, of Suffolk, and Mrs. Lee Riddick, of Corapeake; a son, Al Lee Benton, U. S. Navy, now stationed at San Diego, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. H. E. Kemp, of Beverly, Calif., and Mrs. H. A. Folker, of Mustang, Mich.

Mr. Benton was for a quarter of a century superintendent of the Coca-Cola Bottling Works.

The body was taken to the funeral home of I. O. Hill and Company, where services were conducted Friday at 2:30 p. m., with Dr. A. L. Franklin, of Main Street Methodist Church, officiating. Burial was in the family cemetery, near Corapeake.

## Cotton Ginning In County Still Short

Gates county cotton ginning compared with 1943 is still more than 700 bales short, according to the report of A. C. Matthews, special agent for the Bureau of the Census.

His report indicates that 2,493 bales were ginned from the crop of 1944 prior to January 16, as compared with 3,236 bales for the crop of 1943.



**POLIO CHAIRMAN.** Mrs. C. C. Parker is Gates county chairman for the 1945 fund-raising campaign in the fight against Infantile Paralysis. She said: "we do not know what is in store for this county nor any other county of the Nation in 1945, but it is up to all of us who value the health and welfare of America's children to prepare now for any eventuality." Mrs. Parker added that in connection with other activities during the campaign, two large dances will be staged in Gates county.

## Grandson Drum Hill Woman Is Missing in Action

Lieut. (jg) David Harrison Collins, USN, grandson of Mrs. Etta Collins and nephew of Mrs. B. M. Eure of Drum Hill, has been reported missing in action in the Pacific area. Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Collins, now of Norfolk, the lieutenant was gunnery officer assigned to one of the three destroyers recently lost in a Pacific typhoon.

"As you undoubtedly know," the Navy Department's telegram said, "the ship to which he was attached was lost in the recent typhoon, but the list has just been received."

Lieut. Collins graduated from officers' gunnery and torpedo school in Honolulu. He was attached to the USS Spencer during the entire period of his service.



**IN PACIFIC.** Aubrey E. Harrell, above, seaman 1/c, U. S. Coast Guard, of Gates, has recently left the States for Pacific duty aboard an L.S.T. after completing amphibious training at Camp Bradford, Va. He is the son of Mrs. M. H. Harrell of Gates, and the husband of Frances B. Harrell.

## Rountree Home Again; Patient In 10 Hospitals

After having been in ten different hospitals in France, England and the United States, Pfc. S. R. Rountree, Jr., is spending a short furlough in Gatesville with his parents before returning Thursday to Borden General Hospital at Chickasha, Okla.

Wounded near St. Lo, France, on July 20, Rountree stood a fifty-fifty chance of losing his right arm, shattered and torn at the wrist by the explosion of a German artillery shell. On a visit to the Index office Monday, Rountree said the blast wounded 23 and killed three other men of his armored infantry platoon.

Skilful skingrafting however, has restored partial use of his arm and he appears to be well on the road to recovery. He suffered lesser shrapnel wounds in the legs and heels.

Rountree said his assault platoon was taking the village of Pierre after artillery had shelled it on July 20 when the Germans opened up with 88 mm cannon. The shell that disabled Rountree, killed three of his buddies and wounded 23 others, landed and exploded in a nearby tree, Rountree said.

He came home last Wednesday, traveling by bus from Chickasha to Charlottesville, by train from Charlottesville to Suffolk and by auto from Suffolk to Gatesville. His address is Ward D3, Borden General Hospital, Chickasha, Okla.

A brother, Pfc. J. M. Rountree, at present in the Philippines, recently wrote his parents that he is out of the hospital and has rejoined his outfit. The letter also expressed thanks to friends for their Christmas cards and to the Baptist Church for cards and a gift.

"I had turkey for Christmas and on New Year's Day, but the Japs also gave us a bang on New Year's Eve," he wrote.

## Dildy In 24th Month Overseas

With the Army Air Force Engineer Command in Italy—Saint Clair Dildy, negro of Gatesville, North Carolina, a technician 4th grade in an aviation engineer unit building bases for Allied air power in the Mediterranean theater of operations, was recently awarded the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior and superior performance of duty.

Technician 4th Grade Dildy, the son of Dan Dildy of Route 1, Gatesville left his position with E. T. Pilan, Gatesville to join the service in June 1942. Sent overseas, he has seen 23 months of active duty in North Africa and Italy as chauffeur with the aviation engineers.

Dildy's wife, Ruth, lives at Route 2, Gates. They have no children.

## Home of Former Resident Burned

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Spruill of Creswell was destroyed by fire last week, which consumed all their furniture and clothing. The fire was caused by a defective flue in the front of the house.

Mrs. Spruill is the former Miss Ollie Turner, daughter of E. F. Furner of Gatesville.